(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a special package for development of roads in the North East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also prepared such a package for other backward and cash-strapped States; and

(d) if so, the details of such a package for development of roads in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry has framed a project for accelerated improvement of National Highways in the North Eastern Region, which is under proposal stage.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Violation of NHAI's road guidelines

1556. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHAI guidelines allow subletting and sub-contracting so far as the Golden Quadrilateral Highway project is concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether it has come to the notice of Government that the principal contractor had sub-contracted majority of portions of the contract in Bihar and other places in violation of NHAI guidelines and ignored the poor quality of work;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(e) whether Government propose to get the samples of work carried out by the subcontractors tested by road construction experts; and

(f) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NHAI follows Federation Internationale Des Ingenieurs-Conseils (FIDIC) guidelines for contracts. As per the contract conditions, contractor is allowed to subcontract a part of a work with the permission of the "Engineer" (Supervision Consultant selected by NHAI) and Employer (NHAI).

(c) and (d) A case of subcontracting by M/s L and T -HCC (JV) beyond approved limit has come to notice for which action has been initiated by NHAI.

(e) and (f) The principal contractor is also responsible for the work done by the subcontractors. The works are tested as per the provisions of the contract by the consultants.

New Road Policy

1557. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating a new road policy for development and management of roads throughout the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) by when such a new road policy is likely to be finalised and notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Policy for development and management of National Highways is constantly reviewed by the Government, to make it more effective, keeping in view the changing environment.

Smart Card based Driving Licenses

1558. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce smart-card based driving licenses/registration certificates through computerization of all transport offices;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the amount involved in this project;